Anomaly in facilities to ex-servicemen

†797. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while there is similarity in facilities being provided by Central Government to ex-servicemen in the country there is a big difference in the facilities being provided by various Governments;

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the separate cell/departments of ex-servicemen, which has been created in the Ministry of Defence to bring about uniformity in these facilities and what has been the results thereof; and

(c) in what manner Ministry of Defence ensures that ex-servicemen get uniform facilities from State Governments also;

(d) whether Government propose to set up National Commission for ex-servicemen; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) (i) A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri George Fernandes, the then Raksha Mantri in August, 1999 which made recommendations to evolve a National Welfare Policy for Jawans and Ex-Servicemen to bring uniformity in welfare packages announced by different state governments.

(ii) Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Raksha Mantri lays down general policies for the welfare of ex-servicemen. The members of the KSB include Chief Minister and Ministers of all major states.

(iii) The Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare has circulated a model welfare package to all state governments requesting them to bring about uniformity. The matter rests with the state governments.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.